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DOCKING

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1963

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and the

Report of the

WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. A.A.G. CARSON, M.B.,B.Ch.,B.A.O.,D.P.H.

Local Health Office,
Wells-next-the-Sea.
Tel: Wells 262.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.B. JENKINS, C.R.S.I.,C.S.I.B.

Council Offices,
Docking.

First Additional Public Health Inspector

G.W. SANGER, C.R.S.I.,C.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector

E.R. MACHIN, C.R.S.I.,C.S.I.B.

Clerk (part-time)

Miss N.H. PULL

Water Department Staff

Waterworks Superintendent

J.R. DRYSDALE

The Mount,
Docking.

Assistant Waterworks Superintendent

J. NEWMAN

Administrative Assistant

W.H.C. BRAIN

Waste Inspector

R.S. DELF

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

1963

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Vice-Chairman	-	Mr. A.E. Richmond
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	-	Mr. E.J. Isherwood. (ex-officio)

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Public Health of the District for 1963. This report includes that of the Senior Public Health Inspector and the Waterworks Superintendent.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 18,080. At the same time there was a natural increase of births over deaths of 29. In 1962 there was a natural increase of 72, but according to the Registrar General, the estimated population still declines.

The corrected death rate for the District was 11.8 compared with 11.2 for the Administrative County of Norfolk and 12.2 for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate has increased slightly for 1963, but is lower than that for England and Wales. Five deaths of infants under one year of age occurred in the District, and it is worth noting that two of these (or 40%) were caused by suffocation by a pillow in a carry cot. One would have thought that enough publicity has been given over the years to prevent a repetition of these avoidable accidents.

Fluoridation of water supplies was a much discussed and debated topic in 1963. In Section III (page 15) there is a summary from the Ministry of Health's report on the "conduct of fluoridation studies in the United Kingdom and the results achieved after five years." It is noteworthy that the Eire Supreme Court in Dublin, on Friday, 3rd July, 1964, declared the Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act, 1960, of that Country, to be constitutional and the appeal of Mrs. Gladys Ryan, of Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin, was dismissed with costs against her. In the course of giving judgment, the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Cearbhall O'Dalaigh, said that the question of dental caries had become a national problem in Eire. It could result not only in damage to the teeth themselves but through them might be injurious to general health. The State was organized for the common welfare of all its citizens and had a duty of protecting the citizens from dangers to health in a manner not incompatible or inconsistent with the rights of those citizens as human persons. The Court did not accept that the fluoridation of water, was, or could be described as the mass medication or mass administration of "drugs" through water. It was a misuse of words to refer to the process in such terms.

I have no doubt that, in time, fluoridation will be recognised and accepted in this Country.

The effect of smoking on health and, in particular, its relation to the rise in lung cancer was another topic in the news.

Comparisons of mortality from lung cancer in smokers and non-smokers show that smokers have a very much higher mortality than non-smokers, and in the case of heavy smokers (i.e. those who smoke in excess of 40 cigarettes a day) it is as much as seventy times as high.

There is also a clear association between cigarette smoking and coronary thrombosis, and in heavy smokers it is much higher than in non-smokers.

Lest one may say that he has been smoking for years and has run the risk anyway and that it is too late to stop smoking now, let me assure them that this is not so. There is no doubt that the risk of lung cancer is reduced whenever one gives up smoking.

Cigar and pipe smoking are less dangerous probably because they burn at a very much lower temperature than cigarettes. The temperature at the tip of a burning cigarette is around 900°C.

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I should like to express my thanks to the Committee for their support and to the Staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office for their help in the compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW A.G. CARSON, M.B.,B.Ch.,B.A.O.,D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

GENERAL STATISTICS

(a) Area:- the District covers 87,386 acres and comprises 30 parishes.

(b) Population:- the Registrar General's estimated Mid-Year Home population for 1963 was 18,080. This is 420 less than last year.

Year	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Estimated Mid-Year Population.	17620	17440	17400	17540	18190	18510	18790	18500	18500	18080

The number of live births in the District in 1963 was 265, whilst the number of deaths was 236 representing a natural increase of 29.

(c) The Rateable Value of the District = £ 385,891

(d) The Product of a Penny Rate = £ 1,548

(e) Meteorological Factors:- the data, acquired by courtesy of the R.A.F. West Raynham, is shown in the table below, the figures in brackets being the corresponding data for 1962.

Month	Mean daily maximum Temp (°F)	Mean daily minimum Temp (°F)	Mean daily temperature (°F)	Total rain-fall Inches	Mean relative humidity
Jan.	31.5 (43.2)	23.9 (34.2)	27.7 (38.7)	1.19 (2.02)	86.75 (89.5)
Feb.	33.4 (43.2)	24.4 (34.5)	28.9 (38.9)	.79 (1.44)	89.75 (83.75)
Mar.	48.0 (42.3)	35.4 (30.0)	41.7 (36.1)	3.35 (1.43)	89.25 (82.0)
April	53.8 (51.3)	39.6 (38.7)	46.7 (45.0)	2.05 (2.35)	87.0 (81.75)
May	57.5 (55.6)	41.9 (42.6)	49.7 (49.1)	2.34 (2.50)	82.0 (81.25)
June	65.5 (64.4)	49.5 (46.8)	57.5 (55.6)	1.51 (0.71)	83.25 (73.25)
July	66.9 (64.0)	50.0 (49.8)	58.5 (56.9)	1.93 (2.48)	82.25 (82.75)
Aug.	63.3 (65.3)	49.8 (49.8)	56.5 (57.5)	4.73 (3.0)	89.75 (81.75)
Sept.	61.9 (61.5)	48.0 (47.3)	54.9 (54.4)	2.03 (3.77)	88.75 (85.5)
Oct.	56.3 (56.8)	44.8 (44.6)	50.5 (50.7)	1.26 (1.16)	88.75 (89.5)
Nov.	50.9 (45.9)	40.6 (37.0)	45.7 (41.5)	2.78 (2.10)	91.0 (91.75)
Dec.	40.3 (39.9)	32.5 (29.5)	36.4 (34.7)	1.05 (2.63)	91.0 (88.5)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The Registrar General's figures for live and still births in the District for 1963 were 265 and 3 respectively.

Table showing legitimate and illegitimate live births.
(the figures in brackets are corresponding numbers for 1962).

Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	133 (137)	115 (136)	248 (273)
Illegitimate	6 (8)	11 (10)	17 (18)
Totals	139 (145)	126 (146)	265 (291)

Table showing stillbirths for 1963

Stillbirths	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Totals	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)

Live Birth Rate

The crude rate per 1,000 population was 14.7 compared with a rate of 15.7 in 1962. The corrected birth rate (using a comparability factor of 1.06) was 15.6 per 1,000 of the population compared with 18.2 for England and Wales.

Illegitimate Births

The number of illegitimate births was seventeen compared with eighteen in 1962. The percentage of illegitimate births to the total live births was 6.4% compared with 6.2% in 1962, 4.9% in 1961 and 3.3% in 1960.

Still Births

There were three stillbirths in 1963, all in legitimate births, giving a stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths of 11.2 compared with 10.2 in 1962. The rate for England and Wales was 17.3 for 1963.

Infant Deaths

Five infants under one year of age died in 1963 as did five in 1962.

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Table showing infant deaths in 1963

	Under 1 Year		Under 4 weeks		Under 1 week	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	1	2	1	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	1	2	1	2	1

The table shows that of the five infant deaths, two died under one year of age, and the other three under one week of age.

Causes of infant deaths were as follows:-

Male (L)	1 hour -	Prematurity
Female (L)	14 hours -	Possible congenital abnormality
Male (L)	2 days -	Bilateral suprarenal haemorrhage.) Atelectasis.)
Male (L)	6 weeks -	Accidental. Asphyxia - pillow in) carry cot.)
Male (L)	11 months-	Asphyxia - pillow in carry cot.

Infant Mortality Rate

This is calculated as the total infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and for 1963 was 18.9. Comparison of figures for the past seven years shows the following:-

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
18.9	17.2	27.9	33.8	19.6	22.0	18.3

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1963 was 20.9.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate is the deaths in legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births and for 1963 was 20.2 compared with a rate of 11. for 1962.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate is deaths in illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, and for 1963 was zero.

Neonatal Mortality Rate is the deaths of infants under four weeks of life per 1,000 total live births, and for 1963 was 11.3, compared with 13.7 for 1962, 21.7 for 1961 and 21.5 for 1960.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate is the deaths of infants under one week of life per 1,000 total live births, and for 1963 was 11.3 compared with 10.3 for 1962, 15.5 for 1961 and 21.5 for 1960.

Perinatal Mortality Rate is the number of stillbirths and deaths of infants under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. For 1963 this was 22.4 compared with 20.4 for 1962, 45.2 for 1961 and 39.2 for 1960.

In considering all these infant mortality rates it is worth noting that two of the deaths (i.e. 40%) were preventable.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1963 and, therefore, the rate was zero. It was also zero in 1962.

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths and they are classified under the 36 headings on the abbreviated list of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Deaths,1955. Where the headings are not listed there were no deaths due to these causes.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 yr.	Age in Years 1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75& over
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	3
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	10
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina.	M	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	12	13
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	12
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20. Other Heart Disease.	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7
	F	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11
21. Other Circulatory Disease.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1
22. Influenza	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5
24. Bronchitis	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	4
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
31. Congenital Malformations	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases.	M	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
34. All Other Accidents	M	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
35. Suicide	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total all Causes	M	125	2	2	-	1	-	1	3	2	20	41	53
	F	111	1	-	1	2	2	-	1	2	11	32	59

The total number of deaths in the District in 1963 was two hundred and thirty-six.

Heart diseases, with seventy-seven deaths, caused the most deaths, i.e. 32.6% of all deaths were due to diseases of the heart, compared with 28.3% in 1962.

Coronary artery disease caused fifty deaths giving a figure of 21.2% compared with 15.5% in 1962.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system, with thirty-nine deaths, caused 16.5% of all deaths in 1963, compared with 18.3% in 1962.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (which includes vascular lesions of the nervous system) are combined, a figure of 122 deaths is arrived at out of 236 deaths in 1963 - this is 51.7% of all deaths in the District for 1963. In 1962 the figure was 50.7%

Cancer caused forty-four deaths or 18.6% compared with 18.3% in 1962. Of those deaths eight were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus - in other words 18.2% of deaths due to cancers were caused by cancer of the lung and bronchus compared with 12.5% in 1962.

Bronchitis caused fourteen deaths or 5.9% of all deaths. This disease is largely preventable and although 5.9% does not look a large figure, think of the suffering caused to the unfortunate people who died of this disease.

There were three deaths due to motor accidents and seven to all other types of accidents. Thus accidents caused 4.2% of deaths. Accidents are preventable.

Death rate (crude) per 1,000 estimated population	-	13.1
Death rate (corrected,using comparability factor of 0.90) per 1,000 estimated population	-	11.8
Death rate (corrected) for Administrative County per 1,000 estimated population	-	11.2
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population	-	12.2

SECTION II

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The number of communicable diseases notified in 1963 was two hundred and twelve compared with seventy seven last year.

The great increase was due to the higher incidence of measles, which last year accounted for only sixty seven cases; this year, one hundred and eighty three cases were notified.

The figures for 1963 and for the preceding four years are as follows:-

Disease	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Measles	183	67	249	32	283
Whooping cough	21	-	1	15	-
Pneumonia	1	2	4	3	9
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	2	4	3	2	5
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	1	1	1	1	-
Jaundice	1	3	1	1	-
Meningitis	-	-	1	1	-
Scarlet fever	2	-	3	4	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	15	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	1	-
Total	212	77	264	75	302

The following table gives the distribution by parishes

Parish	M.	Wh.C.	Pn.	P.T.B.	N.P.T.B.	J.	S.F.	P.P.	Total
Anmer	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Bagthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bircham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brancaster	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brancaster Staithe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Burnham Market	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dersingham	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	7
Docking	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Heacham	107	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	108
Holme	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hunstanton Old	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ingoldisthorpe	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Rudham, East	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sedgeford	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Shernborne	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Snettisham	42	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	44
Thornham	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	183	21	1	2	1	1	2	1	212

M = Measles
Wh.C.= Whooping Cough
Pn. = Pneumonia
P.T.B.= Pulmonary Tuberculosis
N.P.T.B. = Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
J = Jaundice
S.F. = Scarlet Fever
P.P. = Puerperal pyrexia

Measles

As shown in the preceding table, one hundred and seven cases occurred in Heacham and forty-two in Snettisham - one hundred and forty-nine out of a total of one hundred and eighty-three cases notified.

The following table shows the incidence of measles by age groups:-

	Under One Year	1 +	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 +	Total
Males	3	10	3	13	12	50	3	2	-	96
Females	3	7	8	12	14	37	3	1	2	87
Total	6	17	11	25	26	87	6	3	2	183

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. In addition, there were three transfers of pulmonary cases from other Districts.

At the 31st December, 1963, there were fifty-five cases on the register, as follows:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
New cases	1 (2)	1 (2)	1 (-)	- (1)	3 (5)
Inward transfers.	- (1)	3 (2)	- (-)	- (1)	3 (4)
Number on register at 31/12/63.	23 (28)	23 (20)	3 (2)	6 (6)	26(30) 29(26)
	46 (48)		9 (8)		55 (56)

Figures in brackets refer to preceding year.

B.C.G. Vaccination

This is given by the County Council and is offered to all children on reaching the age of thirteen years. For the first time, St.Michael's School, Ingoldisthorpe, was included in the campaign and, it is hoped, this will continue.

The following table gives information, by schools, of B.C.G. vaccination in Docking District in 1963.

School	Number due	Number accepted	Tested	Read	Positive	Neg.& vaccinated	Tuberculin Index
Hunstanton Sec.Mod.	153 (110)	137 (75)	127 (69)	127(66)	8(6)	119(60)	6.2 (9.1)
Dersingham Sec.Mod.	67 (71)	56 (54)	50 (52)	49(48)	2(8)	47(40)	4.1 (16.7)
St.Michael's Ingoldisthorpe.	?	74	71	70	13	57	18.6
Total	220	267	248	246	23	223	9.4

(The figures in brackets show the corresponding numbers for 1962)

B.C.G. Vaccination - Cont'd

The tuberculin index, which gives an indication of the degree of infectivity in the District, was 9.4 compared with 11.2 in 1962, 10 in 1961 and 17.7 in 1960. The index does not necessarily indicate tuberculous disease, as the resistance of the great majority is sufficient to overcome the invading tubercle bacteria. It does, however, indicate the degree of opportunity for invasion and is thus a useful indicator of infectious cases in a community.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the District in 1963.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1963 in Area 8 (which comprises Walsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts).

Age Groups	
Children born in 1963	47
Children born in 1962	273
Children born in 1961	67
Children and Young Persons born 1943-60	46
Young Persons born in 1933-42	11
Adults born 1932 or before	34
Total	478

Re-inforcing doses (All Groups)

Number of persons given third injections Salk	56
Number of persons given dose of Oral after	
(i) 2 Salk injections	81
(ii) 3 Salk injections or 3 Oral doses or 2 Salk injections) 2 Oral doses)	477
Total	614

Poliomyelitis vaccination is given by the County Council.

Smallpox

There were no cases of smallpox in the District in 1963.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations, by age groups, carried out in Area 8 and the District in 1963 by the County Council.

Age at date of Vaccination	Area 8		Docking R.D.	
	Primary	Re-Vacc.	Primary	Re-Vacc.
0 - 3 months	14	-	6	-
3 - 6 "	21	-	6	-
6 - 9 "	15	-	3	-
9 -12 "	47	-	13	-
1 year	88	-	36	-
2 - 4 years	26	9	7	3
5 -14 "	13	26	7	13
15 or over	34	53	14	32
Total	258	88	92	48

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

There were no cases of diphtheria or tetanus in the District in 1963.

There were twenty one cases of whooping cough, of which nineteen occurred in Docking. These were in children aged 9 months to 13 years and were mainly mild in character.

Immunisation against these three diseases is given by the County Council and is usually commenced in infancy when the child is about three months old. It is mainly given as 'Triple Antigen' thus reducing the number of injections a child needs. The antigens given, combined in a single vaccine, produce a greater protection to each disease than they would if given separately.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus in Area 8 (Area 8 comprises Walsingham and Docking Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts) and the District in 1963.

BORN		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958-54		1953-1949		1948 +		Total	
		Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.	Area	Dist.
TRIPLE	Initial	142	48	230	91	56	27	9	4	4	4	8	2	2	-	2	-	453	176
	Booster	-	-	5	1	39	8	37	9	15	5	20	9	-	-	1	-	117	32
DIPHTHERIA/ TETANUS	Initial	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	38	18	3	-	-	-	47	18
	Booster	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	4	5	4	189	101	9	1	-	-	209	111
DIPHTHERIA	Initial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
	Booster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	58	83	32	1	-	201	90
TETANUS	Initial	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	1	116	37	77	18	198	72	396	131
	Booster	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	7	3	26	1	26	2	47	20	109	28

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS IN AREA 8 AND DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT IN 1963

SECTION III

REPORT ON FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Introduction

Fluoride occurs naturally in almost all the world's water supplies, varying from a trace to 14 parts per million or more. In Gt. Britain the highest natural concentration is about 6 parts per million (p.p.m.)

It has long been known that there is a correlation between the incidence of dental caries and the level of fluoride naturally occurring in water supplies, and, where high levels occur, this increased resistance can be accompanied by noticeable mottling of the dental enamel. However, where the level is below 1½ p.p.m., no mottling occurs.

In the United States, it has been found that children born and brought up in an area with almost 1 p.p.m. of fluoride occurring naturally in the water, have up to 60% less dental decay than similar children in an area where there is only a trace in the water. In addition, about 30% of the former children between 12 and 14 years have completely sound teeth and it is believed that this benefit persists well into middle age. These findings have been supported by investigations in many other countries.

In 1945, the Americans and Canadians commenced studies to see whether similar results would follow where the level was raised to 1 p.p.m. by adding fluoride to the water.

In 1952 a United Kingdom mission was sent to North America to study these experiments and to advise whether fluoride should be added to the supplies in the United Kingdom.

This mission found that results being obtained were similar to those found where the level of fluoride occurred naturally in the water. There was nothing to suggest that a water to which fluoride had been added was different in its action or had different properties from one containing natural fluoride. There was no evidence to suggest any danger to health from the prolonged consumption of water containing fluoride in low concentration and they found that millions of people were living in ordinary good health on waters containing fluoride at levels of 1 p.p.m. or more. The mission recommended that further studies should be carried out in this Country by adding fluoride to some water supplies.

Preliminary Work

In 1954 a study was undertaken to correlate the incidence of caries and mottling of the teeth with different levels of fluoride.

Four areas in which fluoride was naturally present in water supplies were selected as follows:-

	Fluoride content (p.p.m)
West Mersea (Essex)	5.8 (highest in U.K.)
Burnham on Crouch (Essex)	3.5
Harwich "	2.0
Slough (Buckinghamshire)	0.9

Groups of children aged 12 to 14 years were studied in these areas. Their teeth were examined in detail and carious lesions, fillings and enamel defects were recorded. To estimate the incidence of caries the D.M.F. index was used, that is the average number of decayed (D), missing (M due to caries) and filled (F) teeth.

The results were that in Slough, with 0.9 p.p.m. fluoride, the incidence of caries was as low as 2.6 D.M.F. teeth per child, 30% of the children were entirely free of caries and mottling was negligible.

/Cont'd....

In Harwich, with 2.0 p.p.m. fluoride, incidence of caries was lower still - 1.5 D.M.F. teeth per child but mottling of teeth began to be noticeable in about 1 in 8 of the children examined.

Similar groups of children were examined in Saffron Walden and district (Essex), Stoneleigh and Malden West (Surrey) where there is only a trace of fluoride in the water. In these areas the incidence of caries was 6.6 to 6.1 D.M.F. teeth per child and only 4.8% were caries free.

From these and other studies, it was decided that the level of fluoride at which maximum reduction of caries occurred without mottling, was about 1 p.p.m.

Comparisons made in 1954 of the vital statistics in the United Kingdom showed that, between high and low fluoride areas, there were no differences in the mortality rates which could be interpreted as indicating any harmful effects on health.

In 1956, a conference of experts convened by the Medical Research Council agreed that "despite considerable interest and research there is no definite evidence that the continued consumption of fluorides in water at a level of about 1 p.p.m. in drinking water is in any way harmful to health and that if any untoward effect is revealed by future research it is most unlikely to be serious."

Study Areas

It was decided to fluoridate the water supply of at least 3 communities and to establish a corresponding "control" area as nearly as possible comparable to each of the areas whose water supply was to be treated.

The areas selected were:-

(i) Watford in Hertfordshire with Sutton as its control. Both have a population of some 70 - 80,000, are within a few miles of London and are largely residential.

(ii) Kilmarnock with Ayr as its control, both mainly industrial with populations of about 43,000.

(iii) Part of the County of Anglesey with the remainder as its control - largely agricultural.

Dental examinations were commenced in each of the study and control areas in 1955 and have been repeated annually since.

Fluoridating began in Anglesey on 17th November, 1955, in Kilmarnock on 19th April, 1956, and in Watford on 15th May, 1956, and experience shows that the cost of fluoridation works out at about 10d. per annum per head of the population supplied.

Dental Findings

To be fully effective, fluoride must be absorbed continuously during the whole period of tooth formation and calcification. The teeth must then erupt and be exposed to the risk of caries for a reasonable period before any reliable assessment can be made of the extent of caries prevention.

For the few years that fluoridation has been in operation in the study areas, therefore, its full effect can now be observed only in children up to the age of 5 years. Some improvement might now also be expected in children who have had fluoride from birth or early childhood but little in older children who have not had the benefit of fluoride in their earlier years while their teeth were being formed.

In the tables below are given the findings for children aged 3 - 7 years. The assessment for children of 3 and 4 years is made on the full deciduous dentition (i.e. 20 teeth) whilst for children aged 5 to 7 years, it has been made only on the deciduous canines and molars (i.e. on 12 teeth) due to the uncertainty arising from the natural shedding of incisor teeth. The baseline is the date of commencement of fluoridation.

Average Number of Carious Teeth per Child

Children aged	Study Areas Average number of carious teeth per child (D.M.F)		Percentage reduction after adjustment for change in control areas.	Control Areas Average number of carious teeth per child (D.M.F.)		Percentage Reduction
	Baseline	1961	Control cases	Baseline	1961	
3 years	3.80	1.29	64	3.53	3.32	6
4 years	5.39	2.31	54	5.18	4.83	7
5 years	5.81	2.91	47	5.66	5.39	5
6 years	6.49	4.81	24	6.32	6.22	2
7 years	7.06	6.05	11	7.08	6.89	3

Percentage of Children free from Caries

Children aged	Study Areas Percentage of children free from Caries		Percentage Increase after adjustment for change in control areas.	Control Areas Percentage of children free from Caries		Percentage Increase
	Baseline	1961		Baseline	1961	
3 years	32.5	60.5	79	37.9	39.3	4
4 years	22.2	42.0	44	20.6	26.9	31
5 years	8.1	30.9	165	8.4	12.1	44
6 years	6.2	14.0	56	5.8	8.4	45
7 years	4.0	7.7	53	4.8	5.4	26

Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth

Children aged	Study Areas Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth (D.M.F.)		Percentage reduction (after adj. for change in control areas).	Control Areas Percentage of children with 10 or more carious teeth. (D.M.F).		% Reduced
	Baseline	1961		Baseline	1961	
3 years	14.9	1.7	88	14.2	13.2	7
4 years	21.4	3.6	83	19.0	19.0	Nil
5 years	14.6	1.6	87	13.6	11.5	15
6 years	17.4	8.8	45	16.4	15.2	7
7 years	21.4	15.4	27	22.5	22.1	2

It will thus be seen that children aged 3 years in 1955/56 had, on an average, 3.8 carious teeth, the average in 1961 for this age group was 1.29. Similarly this reduction is maintained in the 4 and 5 year old age group. Among the 6 and 7 year old age group a reduction also took place but not to the same extent, as some of the teeth in these age groups were already calcified before fluoridation began.

Overall, the proportion of children in the study areas free from caries, has been increased by about three quarters.

Further, the proportion of children in study areas with 10 or more carious teeth has been reduced by as much as six sevenths in the case of children aged 3 to 4 years.

Thus fluoridation has brought a substantial improvement in the dental condition of the deciduous teeth of children in the study areas, and there is good reason to believe that the longer term effects of fluoridation will equally be beneficial. In America, it has been found that among children up to 10 years of age, who have had fluoride for the whole of their lives, caries was reduced by more than 50% and the incidence of caries in these age groups reached almost the same low level as in an area where fluoride occurs naturally at the same concentration.

Safety of Fluoridation

No harmful effects from the addition of one part per million of fluoride to drinking water has been demonstrated in any of the extensive medical evidence collected and viewed by a Research Committee.

The World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation has also reported (in 1958), "The most convincing evidence of the safety of water fluoridation comes from the numerous populations (3 millions in U.S.A. and 0.5 millions in U.K.) who have drunk naturally fluoridated water containing 1 p.p.m. or more during their lifetime. In these groups water drinking has been, of course, uncontrolled and there have been well and ill babies, as well as healthy young adults and frail elderly people. Medical Practitioners and Specialists in these areas have never detected or defined a systematic aberration in health of any kind related to fluoride consumed."

Conclusions

(1) Five years of fluoridation at a level of 1 p.p.m in three study areas has brought about in each a substantial improvement in the teeth of young children.

(2) The results of fluoridation obtained so far are in line with American experience.

(3) No evidence of harm from fluoridation has been discerned despite continuous vigilance.

(4) The addition of fluoride to water supplies at a specified level has presented no technical difficulties.

SECTION IV

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The numbers of inspections and visits made in connection with the various branches of Public Health during the year are as follows:-

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of nuisance, in connection with water supplies, drainage work, and building byelaws, etc	299
Housing - for repairs, slum clearance, disrepair certificates, etc.	200
Improvement Grants - Discretionary and Standard	423
Administration of Public Cleansing Services	1425
Food Hygiene Regulations (a) Inspection of Premises	143
(b) Visits to deal with unsound food ..	11
Shops Act Inspections	3
Factories Act Inspections	51
Control of Caravans and Caravan Sites	263
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	13
Supervision of Public Conveniences	95
Infectious diseases, including collection of faeces specimens, etc.	1
Visits to Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops for meat inspection	1734
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, under Slaughterhouses' Regulations	29
Milk and Dairies Regulations	3
Clean Air Act	5
Shellfish Samples taken	7
Verminous Premises	2
Noise Abatement Act	1
Water Samples taken	2
Total	4710

NOTICES

(a) PRELIMINARY The following preliminary notices were served requiring the provisions of the various Acts and Regulations to be complied with:-

Housing Act, 1957	6
Public Health Act, 1936	8
Slaughterhouses Acts	13
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960	15
Factories Acts	2
Food Hygiene Regulations	7
Food and Drugs Act	1

(b) STATUTORY NOTICES One Statutory Notice was served during the year in respect of defective closet accommodation. The requirements of the Notice were complied with.

HOUSING

(a) SLUM CLEARANCE The only work carried out in connection with Slum Clearance, was the re-housing of persons from sub-standard houses as and when the occasion arose, and nine houses from which persons have been displaced, were made the subject of Closing Orders.

(b) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS A summary of the work carried out during the year in connection with Improvement Grants is shown below:-

STANDARD GRANTS

Number of applications received	78
Number of applications approved	75
Number of applications refused	2
Number of applications withdrawn	1
Owner/Occupied houses for which grants were approved.	48
Tenanted houses for which grants were approved	27

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Number of applications received	20
Number of applications approved	16
Number of applications refused	Nil
Number of applications withdrawn	4
Owner/Occupied houses for which grants were approved	4
Tenanted houses for which grants were approved	16

The total number of houses for which both types of grants were approved was 95.

As the circumstances under which people live have an important physical and psychological effect on their well-being, it must be a source of satisfaction to the Council to see that the rate of applications for grants is being maintained. Since its inception in 1949, the Improvement Grant Scheme has done much to bring into the lives of a great number of people the pleasure that comes with modern amenities and a better standard of living.

(c) DISREPAIR CERTIFICATES No applications were received during the year for Disrepair Certificates.

FOOD PREMISES

There has been no major change in the numbers of food premises in the district, which are as follows:-

Grocers & General Stores ..	116	Licensed Slaughterhouses ..	9
Butchers ..	19	School Canteens ..	17
Fish Friers ..	8	Poultry Pluckers ..	1
Restaurants & Cafes ..	24	Bakehouses ..	13
Licensed Premises ..	65	Whelk Boilers ..	4

The number of food premises requiring registration under Sec.16 of the Food and Drugs Act,1955, and the numbers of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, are as follows:-

Premises at which ice cream is sold ..	102
Meat Preserving Premises ..	18
Dairies ..	10

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The work of making routine inspections of food premises was continued throughout the year, and one hundred and forty-three inspections were made for the purpose.

The Regulations are for the control of the cleanliness of equipment in food premises; the cleanliness of persons handling food; facilities for washing food and equipment; the construction and condition of food premises, and the precautions to be taken by persons handling food.

UNFIT FOODSTUFFS

Quantities of food are reported, from time to time, by tradespeople to the Public Health Department as being in need of inspection before they can be offered for sale to the public. Visits were made to food premises for this purpose, and the following food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

48 lbs	tinned ham	43 lbs	fish
8 lbs	chopped pork	12 lbs	frozen imported ox liver
68¾ lbs	tinned fruit	19 lbs	imported beef
21	meat pies	6 lbs	beef sausages

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are nine licensed slaughterhouses in the District, located as follows:-

Heacham	2	East Rudham	1
Docking	1	Dersingham	1
Snettisham	2	South Creake	2

There are twenty-nine slaughtermen licensed by the Council and operating in the District.

MEAT INSPECTION

The routine inspection of all animals killed in the slaughterhouses in the District was continued throughout the year, and again this work took up a considerable amount of time, and necessitated one thousand, seven hundred and thirty-four visits being made to the slaughterhouses.

Details of the meat inspected, and the proportion of animals affected with disease, are shown in the following table:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1445	53	2060	4146
Number inspected	1423	52	2030	4123
All diseases except tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	1	2	3	13
Carcases of which some part was condemned.	128	7	91	727
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	9.06	17.31	4.63	17.94
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Part of carcases condemned	-	-	-	135
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	3.27
Cysticercus Bovis - Carcases affected	6	-	-	-
Percentage of animals killed which were inspected.	98.47	98.11	98.54	99.44

In October, the Meat Inspection Regulations,1963, came into operation, which made it a Statutory obligation on Local Authorities to arrange for the inspection at slaughterhouses of animals slaughtered therein. Before the Regulations were made, there was no obligation on Local Authorities to carry out meat inspection, but this always had been a routine part of the public health service of most authorities.

The Regulations provided for the marking of meat after it had been inspected, and gave Local Authorities the option of charging for their meat inspection service. The Regulations also provided an amended code of inspection, which required a more detailed examination by the inspecting officer. Prior to the introduction of these Regulations, it had been possible to inspect meat in shops the morning after slaughter had taken place, but the new Regulations imposed the duty of inspecting meat before it left the slaughterhouse, and this required a considerable amount of work to be done outside the officer's normal working hours.

Although these Regulations were a necessary public health measure, their implementation meant that the times at which meat could be inspected was governed by the hours of slaughter which the butchers found most convenient to themselves, and it was regrettable that the Regulations did not make an attempt to control the hours of slaughtering.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) LAVATORY PAIL EMPTYING The emptying of lavatory pails was continued throughout the year in the following parishes:-

Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe, Dersingham, Ringstead, Sedgeford, Docking, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, South Creake, Syderstone, East & West Rudham and in parts of Heacham which are not on the sewer.

Where the Council does not undertake this service, the obligation to dispose of nightsoil rests with the householders themselves.

Despite the very unfavourable weather conditions at the beginning of the year, the service to householders was maintained without any undue disruption.

(b) CESSPOOL EMPTYING The service providing for the emptying of cesspools was carried out in all parishes in the District.

The service allows for four free emptyings of cesspools to be given in a calendar year, and any emptyings in excess of this are charged for at the rate of 15/-d. a load.

The service provides for the emptying of cesspools at private houses, Council houses, caravan sites, business premises, and the de-sludging of sewage disposal works at Council housing estates. The actual number of emptyings carried out during the year is shown below, with the figures for the previous four years:-

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
3564	3328	3063	2718	1868

Of the three thousand, five hundred and sixty-four emptyings carried out this year, seven hundred and seventy-five were in Dersingham. The steady annual increase in the number of cesspools which have to be emptied shows no sign of diminishing, and what benefit might have been felt by the Burnham Market sewerage scheme was more than offset by the demand for cesspool emptying from the District as a whole. The building of new houses in non-sewered areas, and the modernisation of houses, grant-aided and otherwise, and the provision of proper toilet facilities at caravan sites, has all contributed to this demand.

The sewerage scheme for Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, at present being considered by the Council, should bring considerable relief to the very heavy burden now being borne by the cesspool emptying service in trying to carry out its obligations to the public.

The work of cesspool and pail emptying is carried out by eight men and four machines, one of which is used only for pail emptying. The disposal of cesspool and pail contents, which always presents a problem, was, as in the past, carried out in the refuse pits in the District. This method of disposal may not be altogether desirable, but no other means of disposal were available to the Council.

The annual cost of the pail and cesspool emptying schemes, as allowed for in the 1963/64 estimates, was £9,013. 0. 0d.

(c) REFUSE COLLECTION The collection of refuse from private households, business premises and caravan sites was continued throughout the year, the frequency of collections being approximately every eight days.

The collection of refuse from caravan sites, especially in Heacham, continued to impose a heavy strain upon the service during the summer months, and if the growth of caravan sites continues, the existing collection staff and equipment may be found to be inadequate to cope with the problem.

Five machines and fifteen men are employed full-time on refuse collection, and another machine and two men are engaged part-time.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping into pits in various parts of the District. Bulldozing of the tips, and maintenance of access roads, etc. is carried out as and when necessary. The cost of refuse collection, as allowed for in the 1963/64 estimates, was £13,110.0.0d.

SEWERAGE

The connection of house drains to the public sewer at Burnham Market commenced mid-way through the year, and good progress in this respect was maintained.

During the year, the Council gave detailed consideration to the sewerage scheme for Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Snettisham, which was prepared by the staff of the County Public Health Engineers' Department. Before the end of the year, the County Council had stated that they had given approval in principle to the scheme, and that they would, in due course, be considering the amount of their contribution.

Maintenance work in some sewer ditches was carried out, and the old sewers at Snettisham and Brancaster continued to function without causing any trouble.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council have provided five public conveniences in the District, at Heacham Village and Beach, Snettisham Beach, Holme Beach Road, and Brancaster Beach. With the exception of the one in Heacham Village, which is open permanently, the conveniences are in use from Easter until the end of October.

The abuse to which public conveniences are particularly liable, was not unduly excessive at the beach conveniences, but the defacement of the walls at the toilets in Heacham village was such that the Council agreed to the roughcasting of the interior walls at a cost of £45.0.0d. in an attempt to discourage this form of abuse.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Pressure to induce caravan site owners to comply with the conditions attached to their licences was maintained throughout the year by the staff of the Public Health Department, and two hundred and sixty-three visits were made in connection with the control of caravans. Despite the fact that the majority of caravan sites were below the standard required by the Council's Conditions, there was opposition from many site operators to the Council's requirements.

Legal proceedings by the Council were successfully instituted against two site operators for non-compliance with the Conditions attached to their licences. An appeal against some of the Council's Conditions was made by another site owner, and this was disallowed by the magistrates.

A fair amount of progress was made at some sites to bring them up to the required standard, but by the end of the year, a certain amount of work was still required at most sites.

By the end of the year, ninety-eight caravan site licences had been issued since October 1960, when the provisions of the Act were first implemented.

The survey of the number of caravans and tents in the District, carried out during August Bank Holiday week by the staffs of the Public Health Department and County Planning Department, showed that there was a total of one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-two caravans and one hundred and sixty-six tents in use in the District. The number of caravans showed an increase of one hundred and thirty-two over the 1962 figure.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) PUBLIC SUPPLIES In collaboration with the Water Department, samples of water from the public supply were taken for bacteriological examination and details of these are given in the report of the Waterworks Superintendent.

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES The Council's public supply is available to almost all parts of the District, and the use of wells or boreholes as a source of supply is decreasing. During the year, only one sample of water was taken from a private well, and this was found, on analysis, to be satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

There were three hundred and thirty-seven complaints received during the year of infestation by rats or mice, an increase of forty-five over the previous year.

The one rodent operator employed by the Council deals with infestation of domestic premises, business premises where necessary, and all the Council's refuse tips.

A free service is given to domestic premises, but business premises are charged for, an inclusive charge of 7/6d. per hour being made.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is pleasing to report that it was necessary to make only two visits in connection with infectious diseases, and it was not necessary for any disinfection of premises to be carried out.

DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

Eight visits were made to deal with dirty and verminous premises, two premises being dealt with for flea infestation.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The inspection of methods of milk production at dairy farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the issuing of licences for the sale of designated milk is dealt with by the County Council.

The District Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Milk and Dairies Regulations in respect of the registration of dairies and the handling and distribution of milk. Some complaints were received regarding visible dirt in milk, which was supplied by a dairy outside the Council's district. This matter was taken up direct with the dairy concerned, and it was found that an inferior type of filter bag was being used. The dairy manager agreed to try an alternative type of filter which proved to be more effective than the type hitherto in use, and no further complaints were received.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

Under these Acts, all plant which is used for the boiling of waste food has to be licensed.

At the end of the year, licences were in force in respect of seven plants in operation in the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are approximately seventy-five factories and workshops in the District, and fifty-one inspections were made during the year.

It was necessary to serve two informal notices in respect of defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences.

Annual Report for 1963 under Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	72	50	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	75	51	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	6	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	3	-	-	-

3. Part V111 of the Act - Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel-making, etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION V

REPORT

OF THE

WATERWORKS SUPERINTENDENT

WATER CONSUMPTION

Source	Total Quantity Consumed & Purchased	Average Daily quantity
Gt. Bircham Boreholes	104,359,000	285,915
Fring Boreholes	43,449,000	119,038
Heacham from Gt.Bircham	36,624,000	100,340
Houghton	550,000	1,507
Total	184,982,000	506,800

Heacham being now supplied from the District Scheme, the consumption figures given above are nett for each district, they also include a bulk supply to R.A.F. Sculthorpe of some 30,000 gallons per day.

PUMPING COSTS

Station	Units consumed	Total Costs	Cost per thousand gallons
Gt. Bircham	270,753	£1,105. 6. 6.	1.88d
Fring	69,496	372.11. 2.	2.05d

Bulk Supply Purchases

Houghton	£ 45. 5. 0.

Bulk Supplies Given

To Walsingham	409,000 gallons

STORAGE

Reservoir, The Mount, Docking	400,000 gallons
Water Tower, The Mount, Docking	225,000 gallons
Reservoir, Inmere	300,000 gallons
Water Tower, Heacham	50,000 gallons
Total	975,000 gallons

PUMPING STATIONS

(a) Gt. Bircham

The quantity of water pumped from this station during the year was approximately similar to 1962.

The pumping plant at this station operated satisfactorily throughout the year requiring only normal maintenance.

On a number of occasions we operated both pumps simultaneously to avoid any shortage of supply to the districts; since installing a further time switch on the switchgear, it is possible to set this at predetermined times, and this avoids having an attendant continuously at the pumping station.

The stand-by diesel generator has been in use on quite a number of occasions and you wisely agreed to installing a new fuel storage tank which simplifies the operation of refuelling.

Water Levels

The recorded water levels at this station were as follows:-

	October 1961	October 1962	October 1963
Rest Levels	17'	23'	14'
Pumping Levels	29'	40'	25'

(b) Fring

The quantity of water pumped from this station during the year showed a slight drop on the previous year, but, once again during one period we were pumping 24 hours per day. No doubt, when the new rising main etc. agreed to, is installed and in operation, the necessity to pump 24 hours per day will diminish.

The pumping plant and auxiliaries operated satisfactorily throughout the year with normal maintenance only.

Water Levels

The recorded borehole levels at this station were as follows:-

	October 1961	October 1962	October 1963
Rest Levels	13'6"	15'6"	10'
Pumping Levels	18'	21'	15'

SAMPLES

In conjunction with the Public Health Department the following samples from the Public Supply were submitted for analysis:-

District Scheme and Ringstead Heacham Main	4
Dersingham Scheme	2
Bulk from Freebridge	2
Total	8

DISTRIBUTION

Mains water is available to all Parishes of the Rural District, whilst new supplies continue to be carried out to old as well as to new properties.

During the peak consumption periods there were a few high level areas where there was considerable drop in pressures, as well as in Heacham (especially the Beach Areas), but when the reinforcement scheme is completed this ought to solve this problem.

FLOW TESTS

Flow tests were carried out periodically throughout the District to ensure waste was kept to a minimum, and also to keep electricity costs down to a minimum.

MAINS AND MAINS FITTINGS

All mains and mains fittings are inspected at regular intervals; this enables maintenance and repair costs to be kept to a minimum.

NEW SUPPLIES

New supplies connected during the year are as follows:-

	Domestic	Metered	Special Charges	Total
District Scheme	26	6	1	33
Dersingham & Heacham	63	7	-	70
	89	13	1	103

MAINS EXTENSIONS AND SUPPLY PIPES

Mains extensions and services exceeding £50 in cost, have been carried out as follows, the cost being borne as indicated.

Dersingham, Norris Grove Estates Ltd.	Section 37
Sedgeford, Minns Bros.	Section 37
Brancaster Staithe, Mr. Gunton.	Developer.

MAINS AND SERVICES - REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Normal maintenance of mains and services have been carried out, and repairs or renewals have been completed with as little inconvenience as possible to consumers.

Mains fractures occurred at Fern Hill, Dersingham and The Bury, Ringstead. Damage was also caused by the severe weather conditions to mains on Heacham Beaches. Services were also seriously affected by freezing, and defreezing equipment was purchased to cope with these and a certain amount of water cartage was necessary.

RESERVOIRS AND TOWERS

Normal maintenance was carried out with the exception of the reservoir at The Mount where we discovered leakage just a week previous to August Bank Holiday, but with the Chairman of the Council's authority, I was given permission to have repairs carried out, which were completed and in service before the Bank Holiday.

METERS

There are now some five hundred and fifty water meters installed throughout the District for which the Council are responsible. In the year ended 31st December, 1963, some one hundred and ninety meters were changed, tested, overhauled and returned to service. Some sixty-eight meters suffered frost damage which accounts for the increased number changed etc.

VEHICLES, SMALL PLANT AND TOOLS

All normal maintenance work on both the Water Departments vehicles and small plant is carried out satisfactorily by our own staff, spares being purchased when necessary to renew worn out parts.

HOUSES WITH NO MAINS WATER SUPPLY LAID INSIDE THE HOUSE

Dersingham	26
Ingoldisthorpe	4
Snettisham	25
Sedgeford	20
Heacham	6
Docking	23
Burnham Market	17
Bircham	15
Brancaster	5
Burnham Norton	7
Burnham Overy	11
Burnham Thorpe	6
North Creake	10
South Creake	12
Fring	18
Holme	8
Houghton	9
Ringstead	7
East Rudham	14
West Rudham	8
Shernbourne	5
Stanhoe	14
Syderstone	9
Thornham	14
Titchwell	2
Anmer	5
Total	300

The majority of these are supplied by a stand-pipe or have water laid on in an outhouse. Number of houses in the District approximately 6,390

GENERAL

Regrouping of undertakings Further meetings of the authorities concerned have taken place but nothing conclusive has been reached.

In conclusion To conclude my report I would like to acknowledge the assistance rendered to me by The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Clerk and other Officers of the Council; also members of the Water Department Staff, who have all assisted in maintaining an efficient service throughout another difficult and busy year.